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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

SIDE-BY-SIDE
WITH
THE
PUNISHER

HEAVY METAL
MASSACRE!



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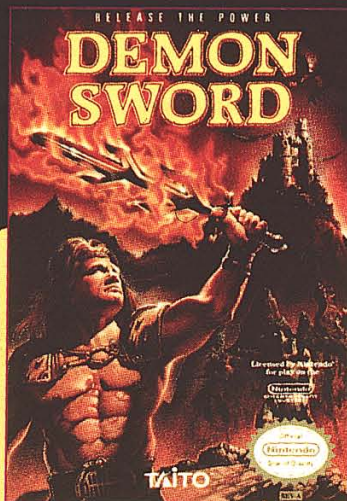
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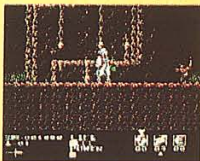
As the hero warrior Victor, you will battle Wizards, Troglodytes, and Undead Souls. Master 7 levels and 3 worlds in your quest to conquer the demons of the Dark Lord. Traverse chasms of fire and mountains of doom to confront the fiendish Gatekeeper.



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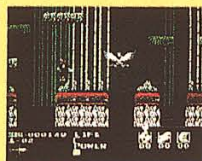
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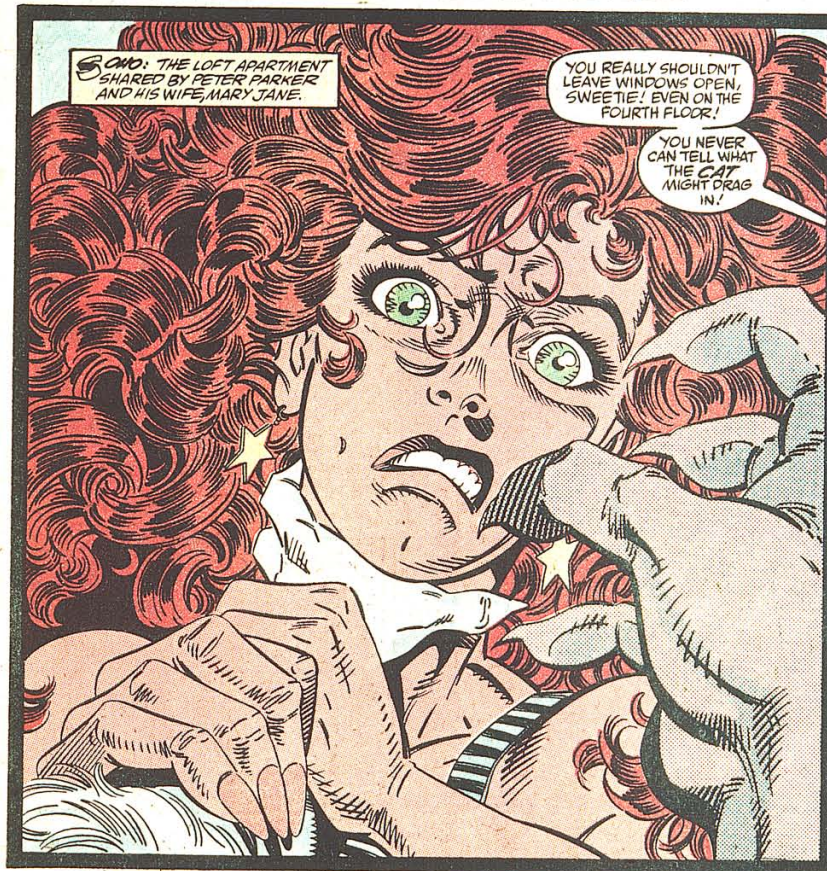
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**



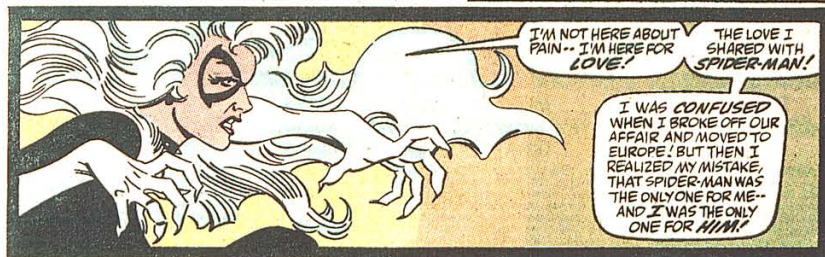
THE DEATH STANDARD



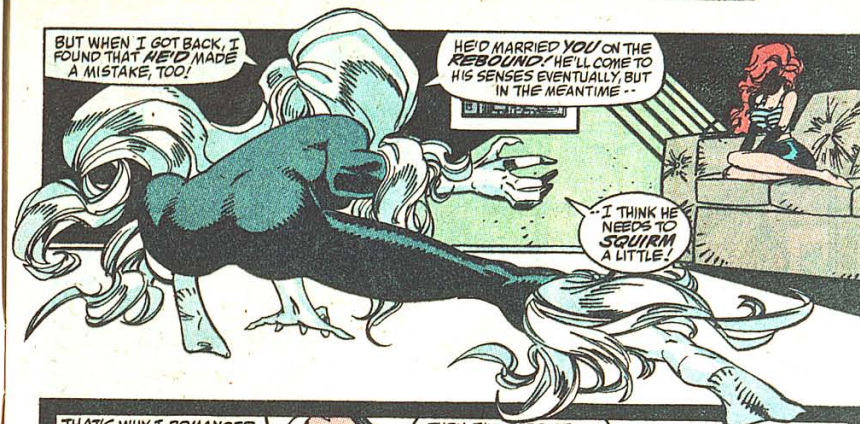
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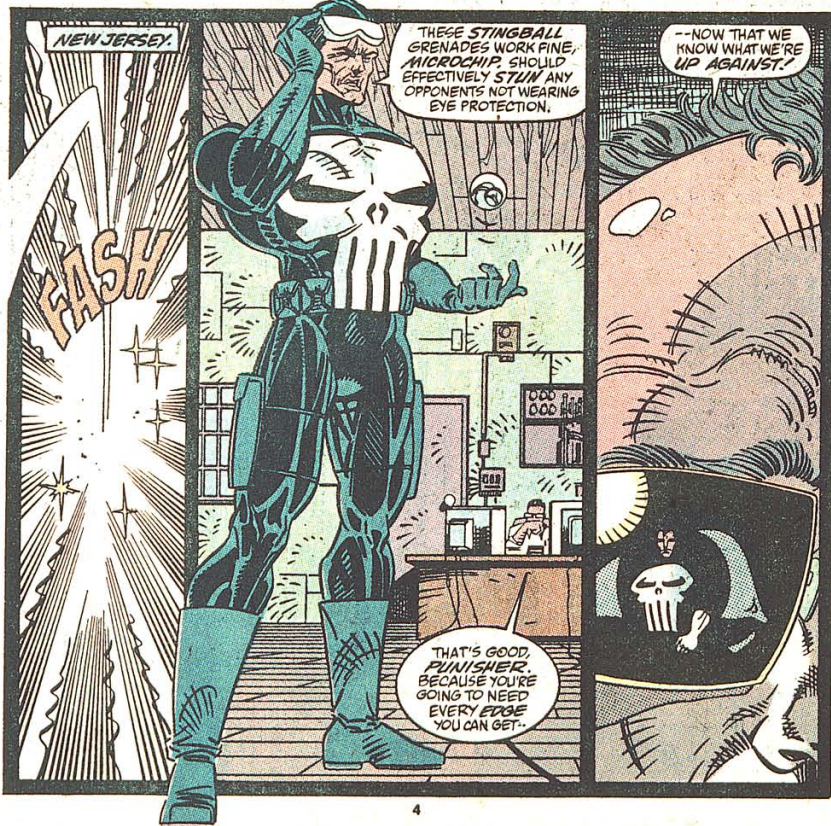
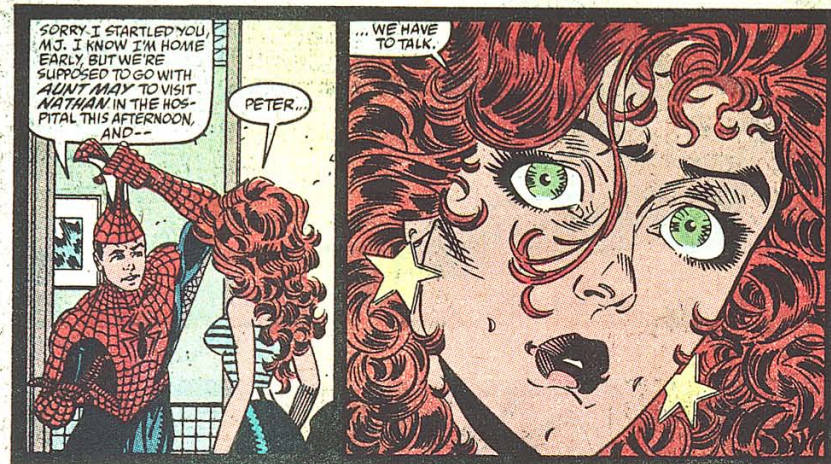
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YES, OUR INVESTIGATION DID TAKE AN **UNEXPECTED** TURN, DIDN'T IT? WE KNEW THAT HUGE AMOUNTS OF COCAINE WERE BEING SHIPPED FROM COLOMBIA, BUT NONE OF IT WAS HITTING THE **STREETS**.

WE THOUGHT WE'D TUMBLER ONTO A POWERFUL NEW DRUG LORD. BUT YOUR COMPUTER PROBES, AND MY **HANDS-ON** EFFORTS, SHOWED THAT THE POWER BEHIND THAT HOARDING IS ACTUALLY--

-- THE **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!**

I JUST HOPE OUR LEADS PAN OUT SOON. EVEN WITH **SPIDER-MAN** JOINING THE GAME, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST.

WHOEVER'S STASHED THAT COKE HAS ENOUGH POWDER TO DESTROY **MILLIONS** OF LIVES!

COLORADO: THE SUPER-PRISON KNOWN AS "THE VAULT."

-- THIS STIFF'S JUST TOO WEIRD! I MEAN, WASN'T HE THE GUY WHO BONDED WITH THAT **ALIEN SYMBIOTE**? TURNED INTO THE MANIAC CALLED **VENOM**? THE ONE WITH A REAL MAD-ON FOR **SPIDER-MAN**?

YEP, **EDDIE BROCK**. SAVED THE WORLD A TON O' GRIEF WHEN HE OFFED HIMSELF!

ODD THING WAS, THEY NEVER FOUND THE **ALIEN**. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE CELL BUT **BROCK'S CORPSE**, AND THE COVER-ALLS HE USED TO HANG HIMSELF. AH, WELL...

-- HNN? THE BLOOD! IT'S **BLACK**! IT'S--

-- **ALIVE!?!**

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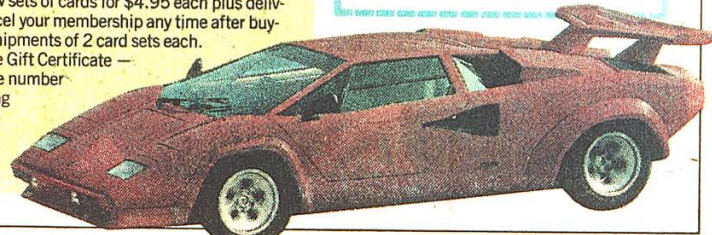
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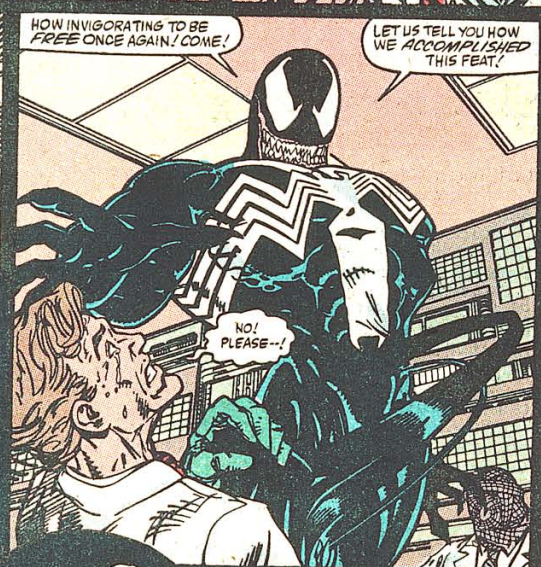
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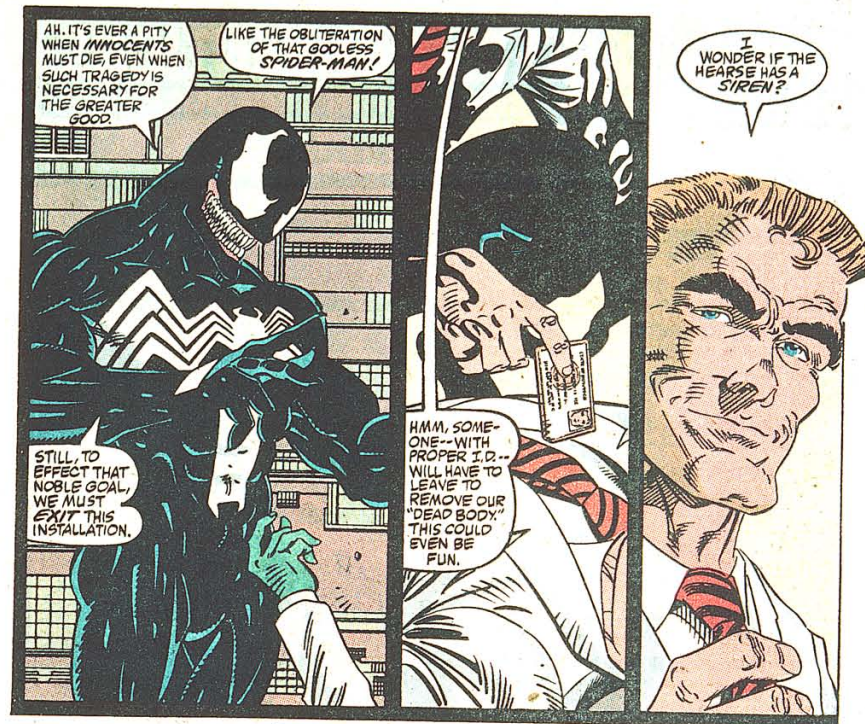
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★ MARCH SCHEDULE ★

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- 3-4 BOSTON, MASS.** -
57 PARK PLAZA HOTEL, 200 Stuart St.
- 4 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.** -
MARRIOTT BLOOMINGTON, 1494 at Cedar Ave.
- 11 NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.** -
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, 2 Albany Street
- 17-18 CHICAGO, ILL.** -
HOLIDAY INN O'HARE, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont
- 17 LONG ISLAND, N.Y.** -
MARRIOTT AT UNIONDALE, on Hempstead Trpk.
- 18 WAYNE, N.J.** -
RAMADA INN, Route 46 West, 1/4 m. from Willowbrook Mall
- 24 NEW HAVEN, CT.** -
PARK PLAZA HOTEL, 155 Temple St.
- 25 N.Y., N.Y.** -
ROOSEVELT HOTEL, 46th St. and Madison Ave.
- 25 SPRINGFIELD, N.J.** -
SPRINGFIELD HOLIDAY INN, 304 Rte. 22 W. 4 m. W. of GS Pkwy
- 31 PARAMUS, N.J.** -
TREADWAY INN, 601 from Rd. Exit 165 off G.S. Pkwy

★ GIGANTIC ★
BOSTON
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MARCH 3 & 4, 1990



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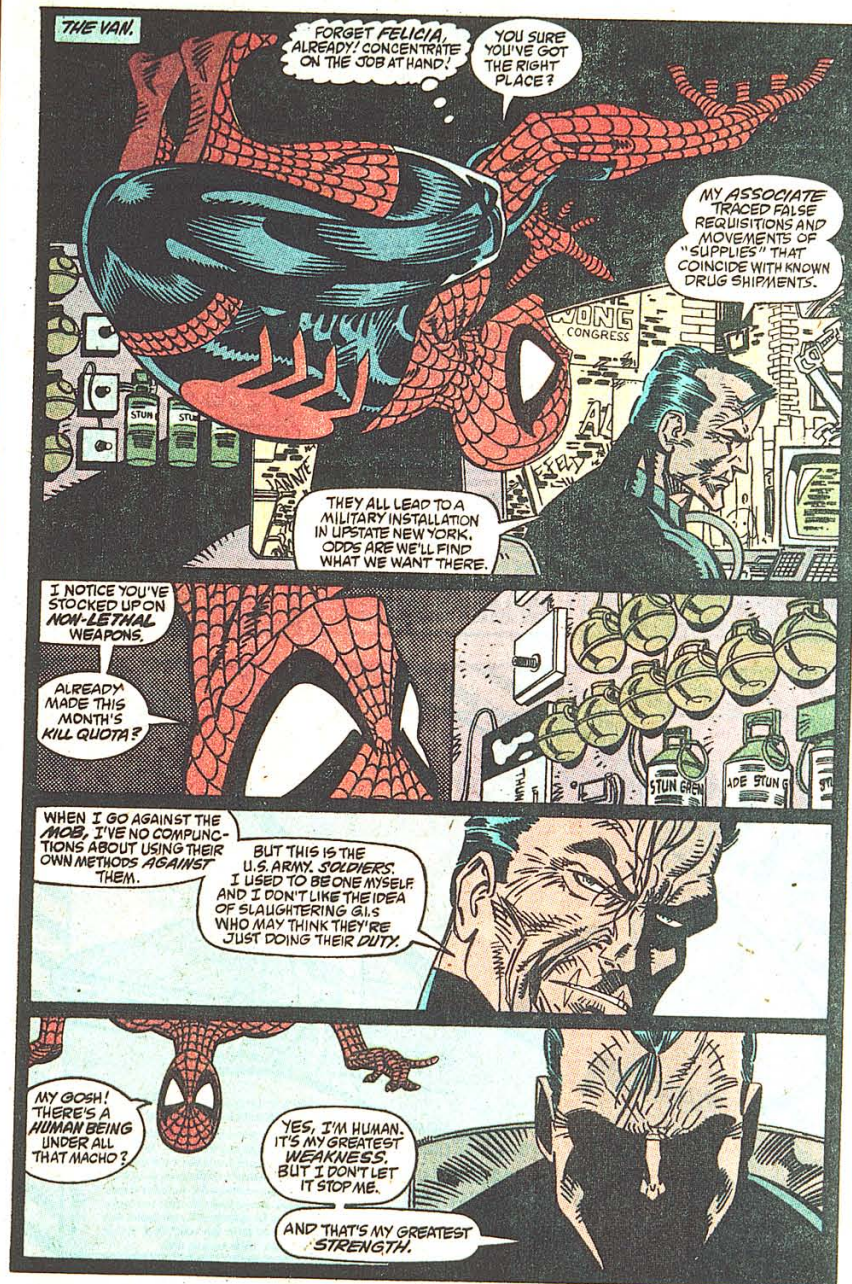


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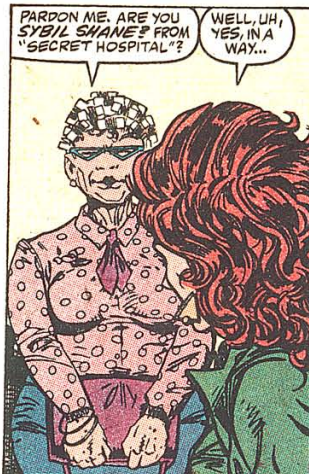
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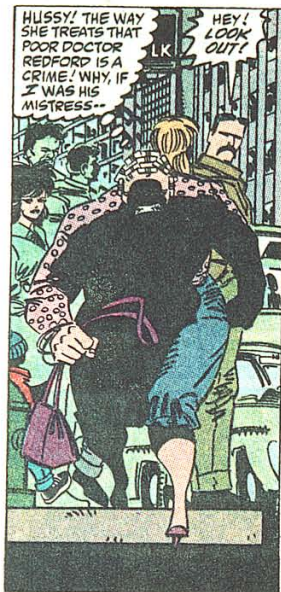
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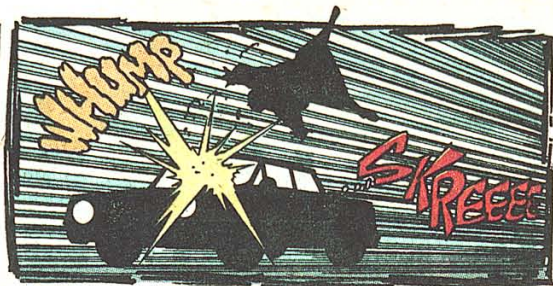
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HUSSY! THE WAY SHE TREATS THAT POOR DOCTOR REDFORD IS A CRIME! WHY, IF I WAS HIS MISTRESS--

HEY! LOOK OUT!

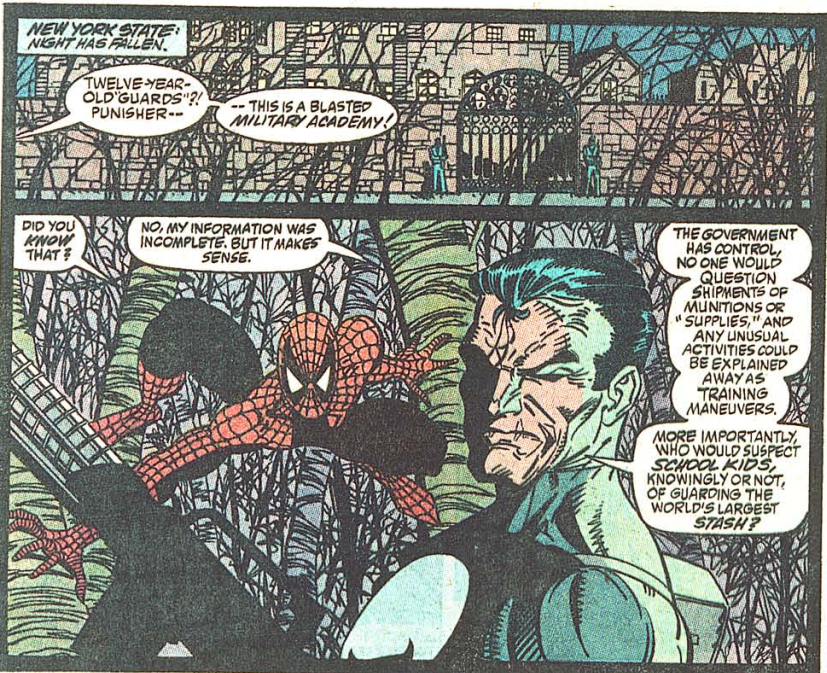


SHE'S DEAD!

CAR LOOKED LIKE IT ACCELERATED!

LIKE IT WAS TRYING TO HIT HER!

DON'T WALK



NEW YORK STATE: NIGHT HAS FALLEN.

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD 'GUARDS'?! PUNISHER--

-- THIS IS A BLASTED MILITARY ACADEMY!

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

NO, MY INFORMATION WAS INCOMPLETE. BUT IT MAKES SENSE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTROL, NO ONE WOULD QUESTION SHIPMENTS OF MUNITIONS OR 'SUPPLIES,' AND ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES COULD BE EXPLAINED AWAY AS TRAINING MANEUVERS.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO WOULD SUSPECT SCHOOL KIDS KNOWINGLY OR NOT, OF GUARDING THE WORLD'S LARGEST STASH?



EVER SINCE MY OWN FAMILY WAS BUTCHERED IN A CENTRAL PARK SHOOTOUT...

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE! YOUR STRONG-ARM TACTICS DON'T THRILL ME AT THE BEST OF TIMES!

OKAY BUSTER, BUT MAKE A WRONG MOVE AND YOU'LL HAVE ONE MORE ENEMY AFTER YOUR SCALP!

ME!

AND IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU USE THEM ON CHILDREN--!

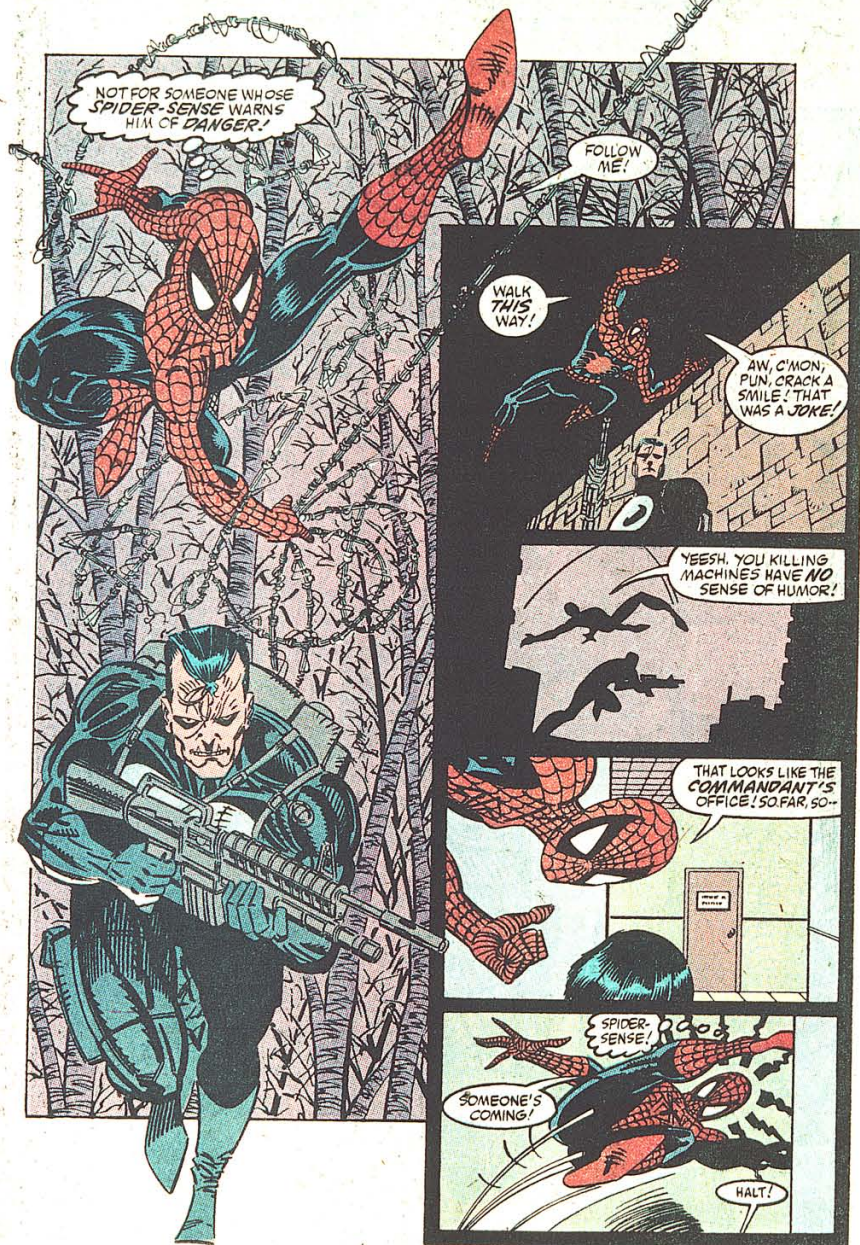
... I ONLY HURT PEOPLE WHO HURT CHILDREN.

AT EASE, SPIDER-MAN. I DON'T HURT CHILDREN.

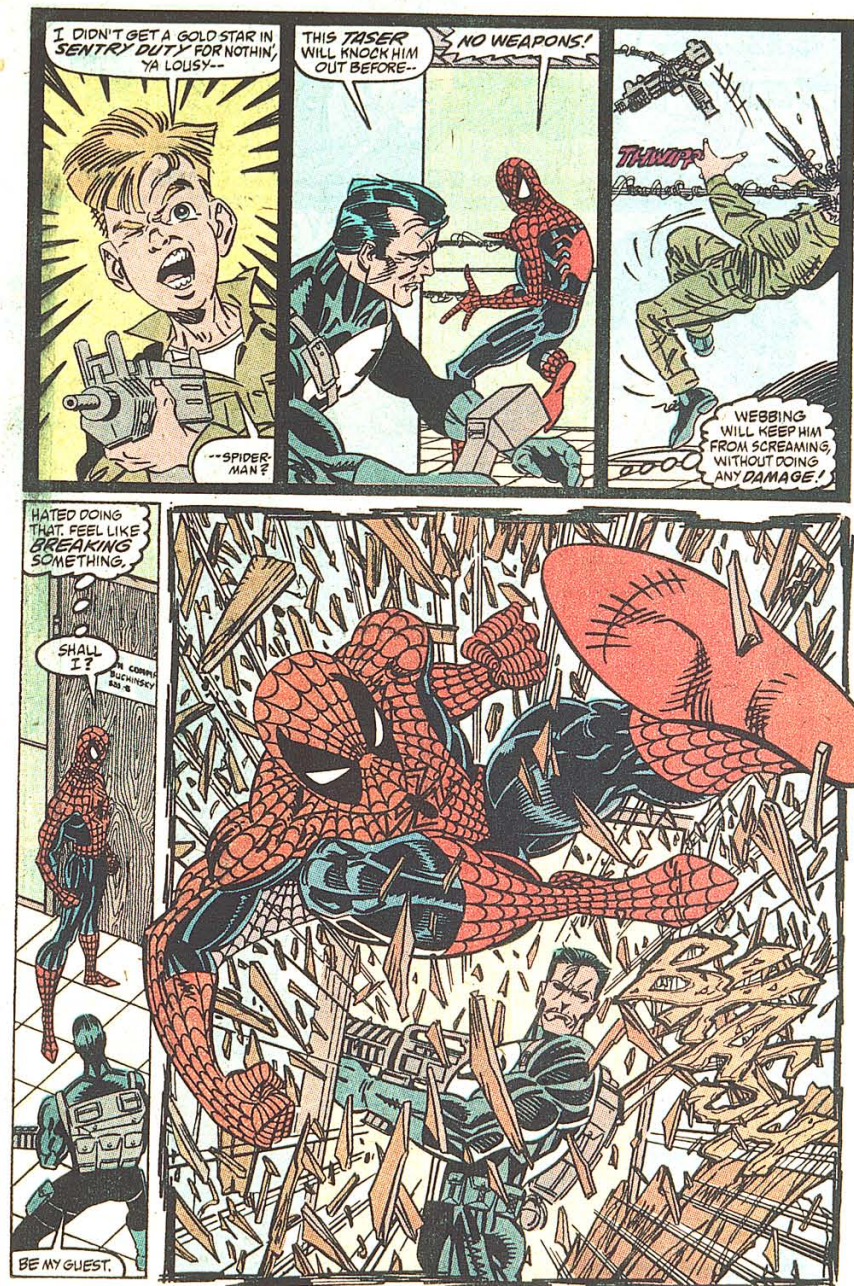
I'LL CHANCE IT. MEANWHILE, WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE.

AND THIS INSTALLATION IS BOUND TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE BEST DETECTION SYSTEMS TAX DOLLARS CAN BUY!

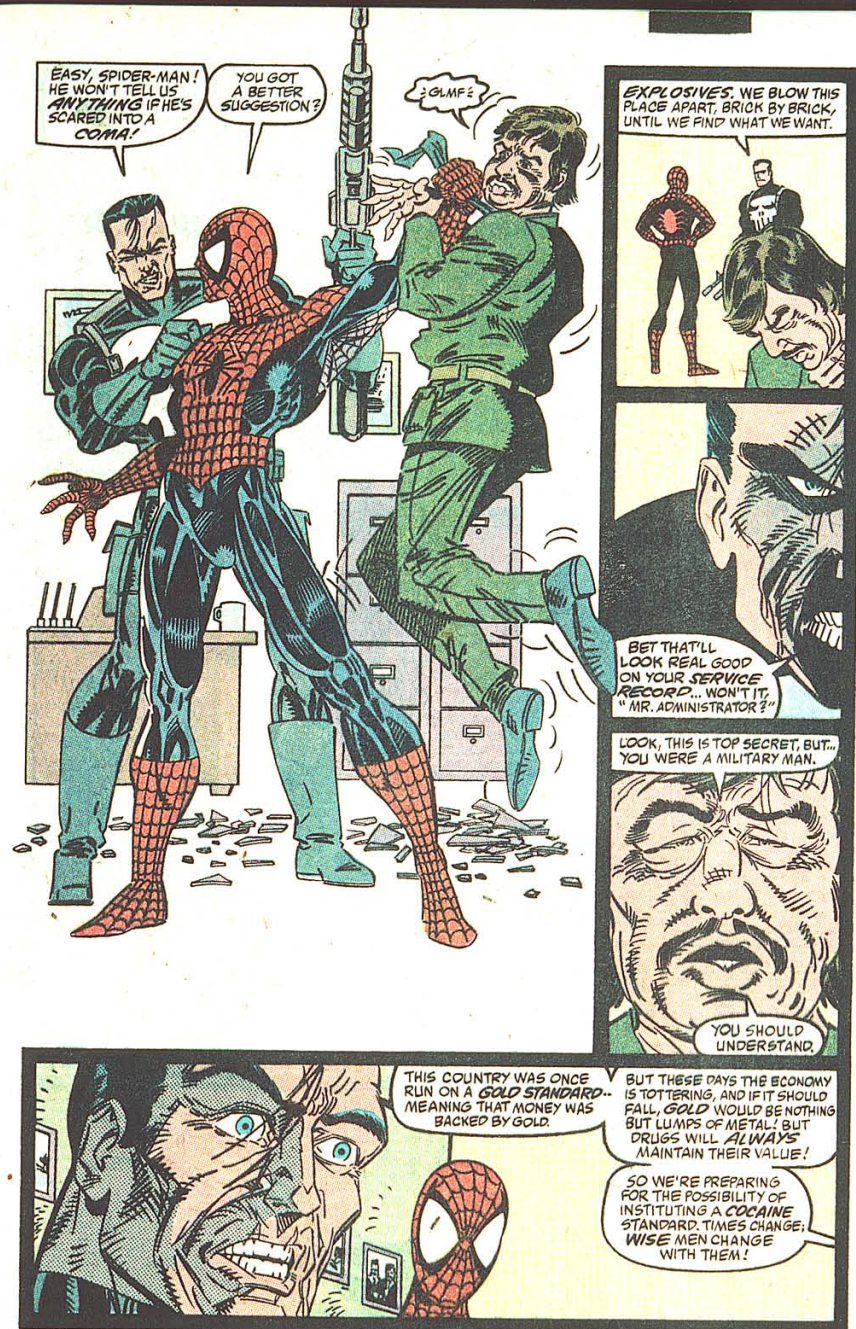
NO PROBLEM...!

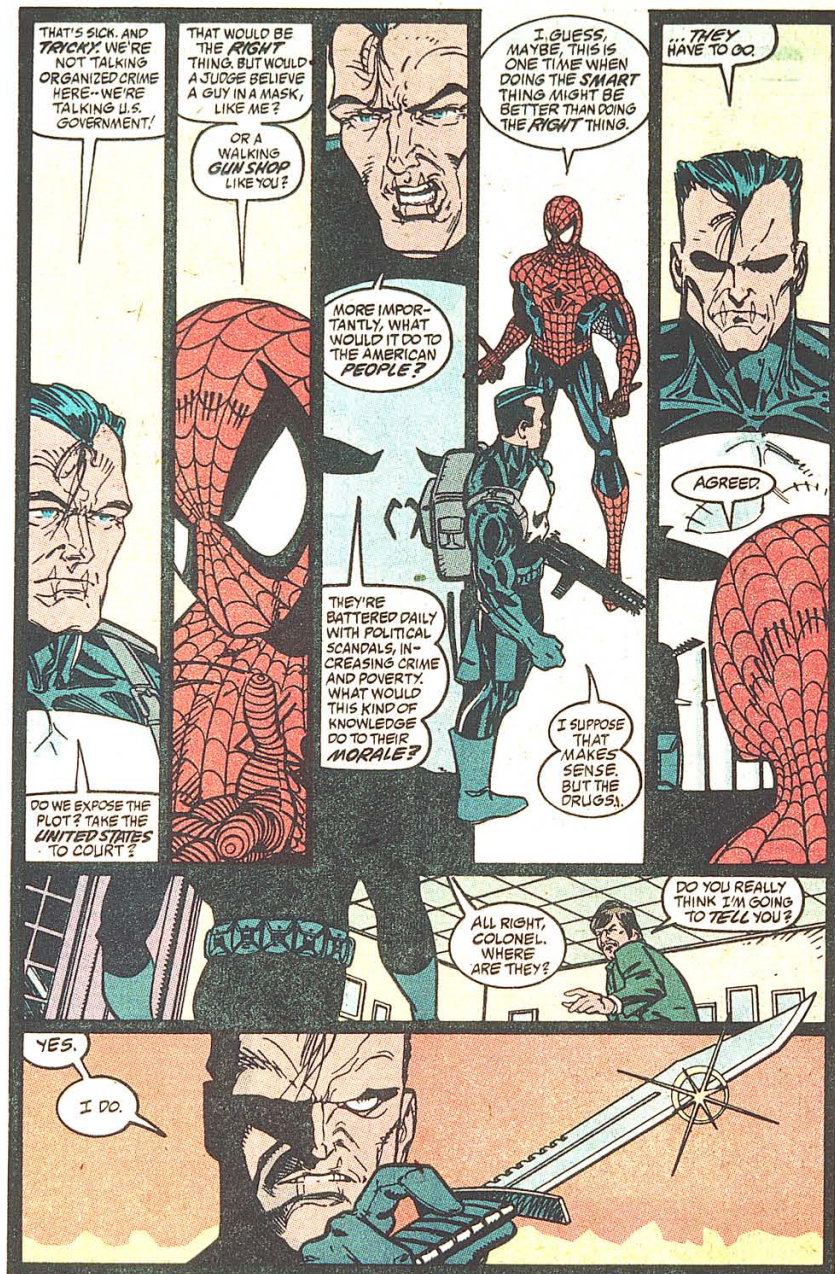


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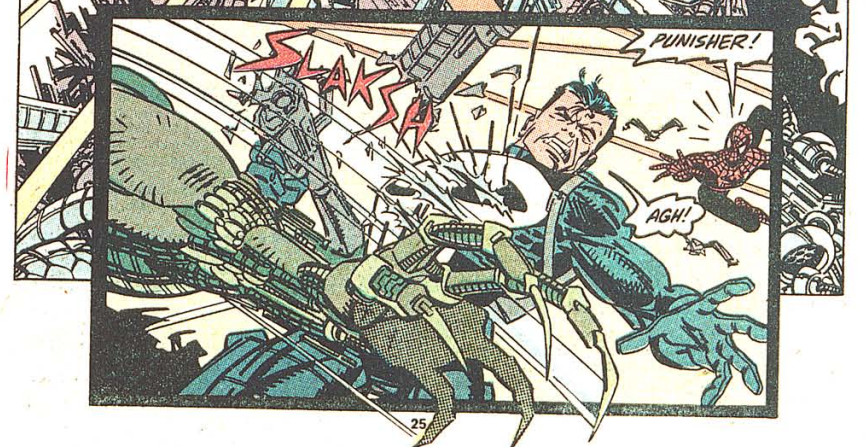
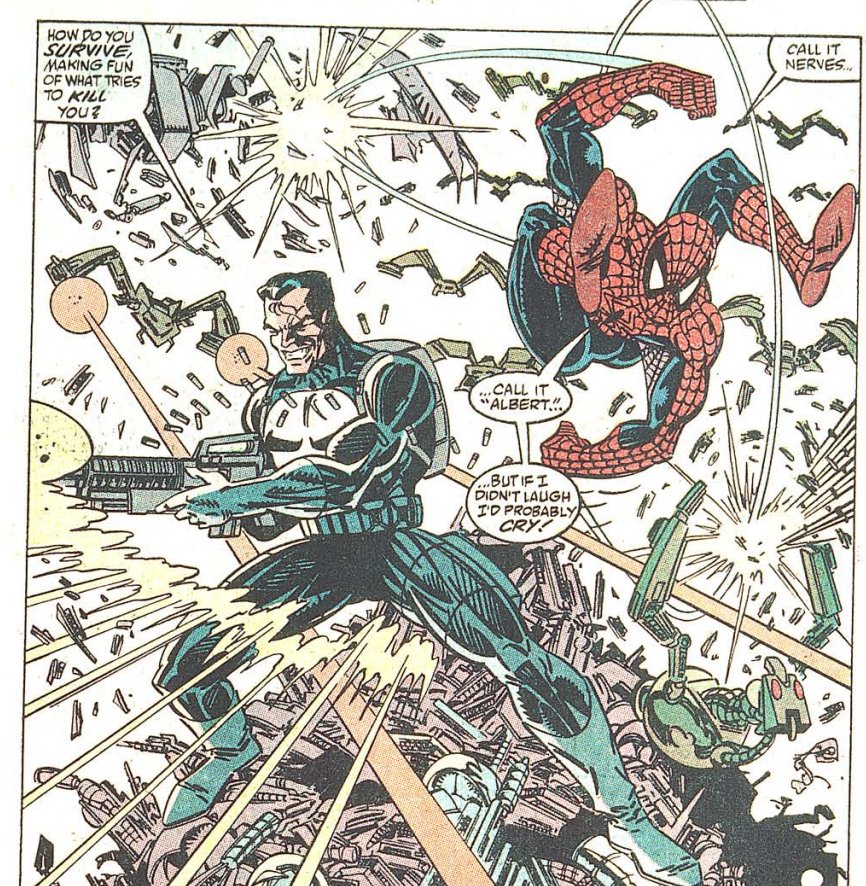
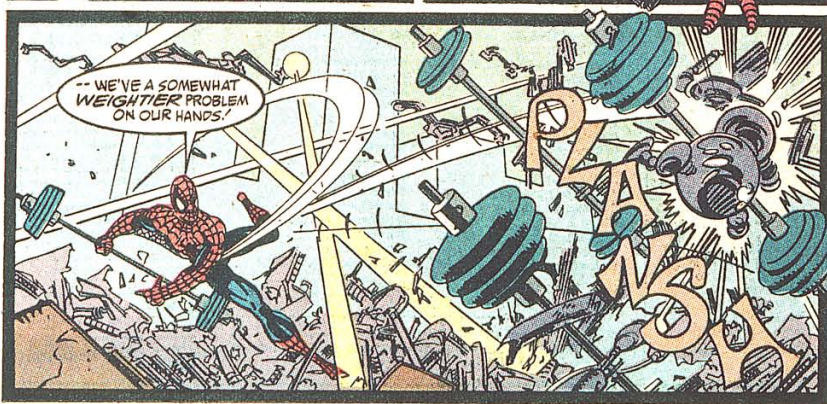


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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Not only does munificent Marvel wish you a Happy New Year, but we're doing our best to make it happy for you. And what better example can I give than this...

Ever since we've been publishing the widely acclaimed MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, many of you have missed it because you couldn't buy it through normal channels, only in comic book specialty stores. But now, because we can't bear the thought of one True Believer missing a single issue of the only magazine devoted to inside information about Marvel's most exciting projects, plus in-depth previews of all our newest stories, plus columns, interviews, cartoons and illustrations giving you the latest news and gossip about the wacky world of Marvel, as well as behind the scenes glimpses of the artists and writers who have become so much a part of all our lives—and because I've got to end this convoluted sentence somewhere—you'll now be able to buy your baty bulpens own MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE wherever comics are sold!

No, no! Don't besiege us with grateful letters and phone calls! Save your energy for scanning the television listings to see when NBC's next and greatest HULK TV movie will be broadcast! You can't miss a show titled "The Death of the Hulk," right? Especially since it's not a dream or an imaginary plot! You'll find more info about this senses-shattering event in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE where I'll devote an entire page to discussing it!

Till then, remember—it's ten o'clock! Do you know where your comic books are?! Excelsior!

Stan

PRO FILE: DANNY FINGEROTH



Editor on: MOON KNIGHT, CLOAK AND DAGGER, ALPHA FLIGHT, AND NEW WARRIORS.

Marvel freelance credits (past): Writer on

ITEM: Happy New Year, Faithful Ones! We've been working round the clock to come up with more exciting new titles to make 1990 our best year ever. Next month we'll give you the details on our New Titles Contest—a special competition tied to our 1990 premiere! Also, 1990 marks the big fiftieth anniversary of MARVEL COMICS #1 and the red, white, and blue Avenger, Captain America! There'll be lots of celebrating, not the least of which will be the release of the live-action Captain America movie from 21st Century Films. So stick around, 1990 won't be any fun without you!

ITEM: We're sure you're just as thrilled about the Berlin Wall coming down as we are, that in the interest of world peace we just can't resist telling you that mighty Marvel and our good pals at DC Comics have gotten together on a special project that's not only tons of fun, but educational, too. It's called *Super Heroes: A High Tech Adventure!* It's a traveling exhibit featuring Marvel and DC super heroes explaining contemporary physics to children. It's already too late to catch the show in Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles, California, but if you're lucky you can see the exhibit at the Detroit Science Center, Detroit, Michigan, February through April; the Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida, June through August; the Indianapolis Children's Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana, October through December; the Cumberland Science Center, Nashville, Tennessee, February through April 1991; Discovery Place, Charlotte, North Carolina, June through August 1991; The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October through December 1991; the Museum of History and Science, Louisville, Kentucky, June through August 1992; Fort Worth Museum of History and Science, Fort Worth, Texas, October through December 1992. We'll let you know when additional dates are announced, right here in your friendly,

neighborhood Bullpen page. (Who says we never give you enough warning?) We think it's a great show, fun for the whole family, and it proves that in this crazy, mixed-up world of ours, two mighty super powers can work together for the good of mankind.

ITEM: A few months back we had our annual wild and crazy Halloween party, and it was a blast! Mark Gruenwald, our wild and crazy Executive Editor, organized all sorts of wild and crazy party activities, mainly a series of wild and crazy contests between our production personnel and our editorial crew. The powerhouse Production team pummeled the pathetic pencil-pushers from Editorial. For all the gory details check out the latest issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. We'd rather not relive the agony of our defeat just now, if you don't mind.

ITEM: Let's hear it for Soft-spoken Scott Lobdell, one of our new shining stars who has scripted many a tale in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Not only is Scott struggling to make a name for himself in comics, but he's also a struggling comic. That's the stand-up kind. A comedian. Well, anyway, after the tragic San Francisco earthquake last year, Scott organized a fund-raising effort by getting a bunch of comedy clubs to band together to hold Quake-Aid nights which would turn over all proceeds to the American Red Cross to help the earthquake victims. We hear it was a big success, and we're proud of you, Scott. No kidding. ITEM: Last, and certainly not least, we're proud to report that on a recent MTV special, "Rating the Eighties," the UNCANNY X-MEN won the award for coolest comic of the decade! Congratulations, Chris Claremont! We're positive the next ten years aren't going to be anything to sneeze at either, as far as our merry mutants are concerned! By the way, we think MTV was the coolest music video station of the eighties, just in case anyone was wondering. Thanks, again, MTV!

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, PSI-FORCE, and more issues of DAZZLER than any human being on the face of the planet.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Writer on FANTASTIC FOUR GRAPHIC NOVEL ("Fathers and Sons"), AVENGERS GRAPHIC NOVEL ("Deathtrap: the Vault"), the legendary "Deadly Foes of Spider-Man" serial in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, a host of WHAT IF...?s, Gilegamesh (in AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT), and an upcoming new series I'm not allowed to mention.

My hobbies are: Jogging, reading, listening to talk radio.

The single work of which I am most proud is: The Thing solo story ("The Day After") in MARVEL FANFARE #46.

My pet peeves are: Too endless to even begin to list.

My place of birth is: New York, N.Y. My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Having a New York showing of some films I'd made.

My oddest habit is: Odder than some people's, not as odd as others!

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sean Connery. (Hey, the word "appropriate" doesn't appear in the question!)

The reason I got into comics was: Steinbrenner couldn't match Marvel's offer.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Actually gonna be a professional writer.

My favorite performers are: Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Marion Brando, and David Letterman.

The last good book I read was: New York Son, stories by Mike Feder.

The last good movie I saw was: Warlock, a 50s "psychological western" starring Henry Fonda.

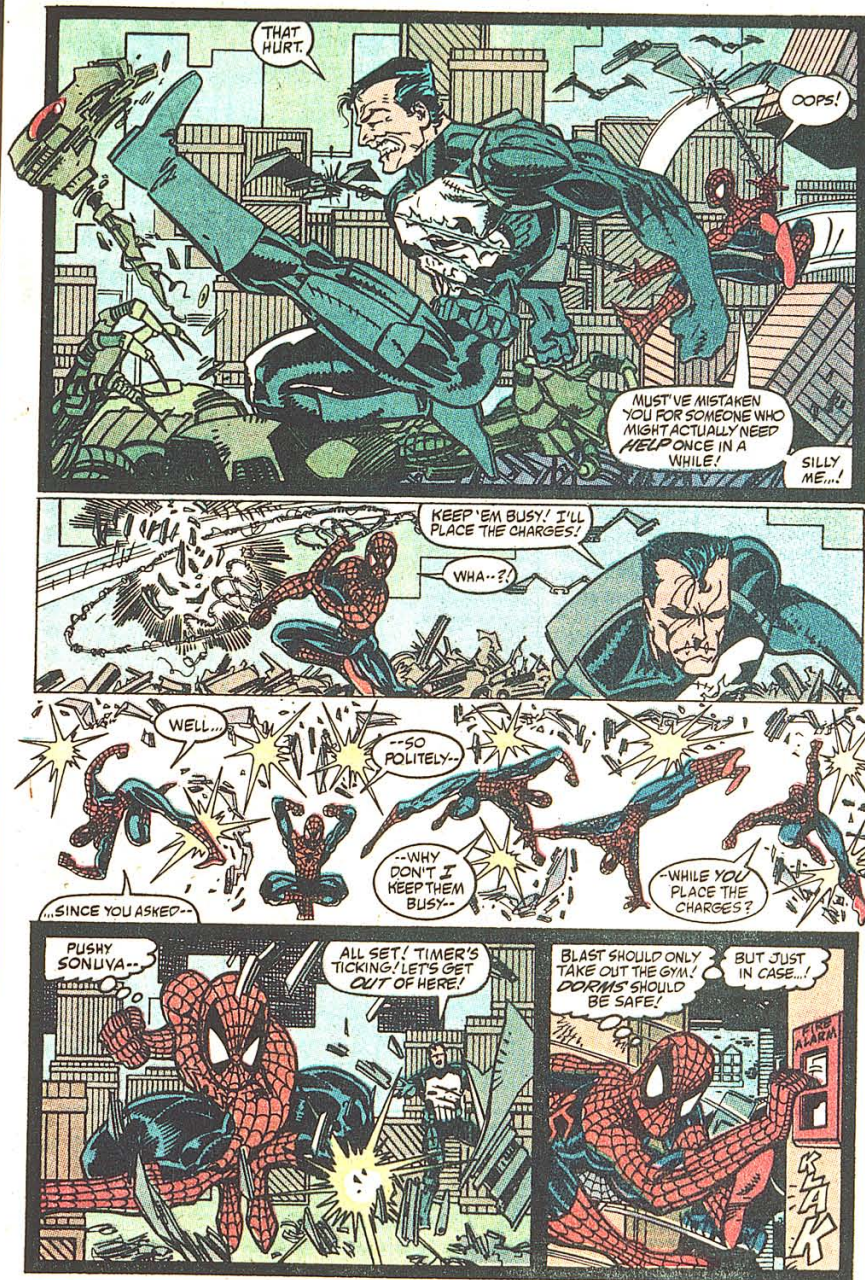
The biggest influences on my work include: My family and my friends, of course. Plus: Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Orson Welles, Jim Shooter, Larry Lieber, Harvey Pekar (who'd probably be distressed to find himself on this list), the SUNY Binghamton Cinema Department, Hank ("Mr.") Levy, Mickey Mantle, Tom DeFalco, and Louise Jones.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To be the regular writer on the FANTASTIC FOUR, Ralph.

The worst part of my job is: Telling people bad news.

When nobody's looking I like to: Pretend I'm Mick Jagger. Or Daryl Edelman.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm one of the country's top ten parallel parkers. (No relation to Rick or Peter!)



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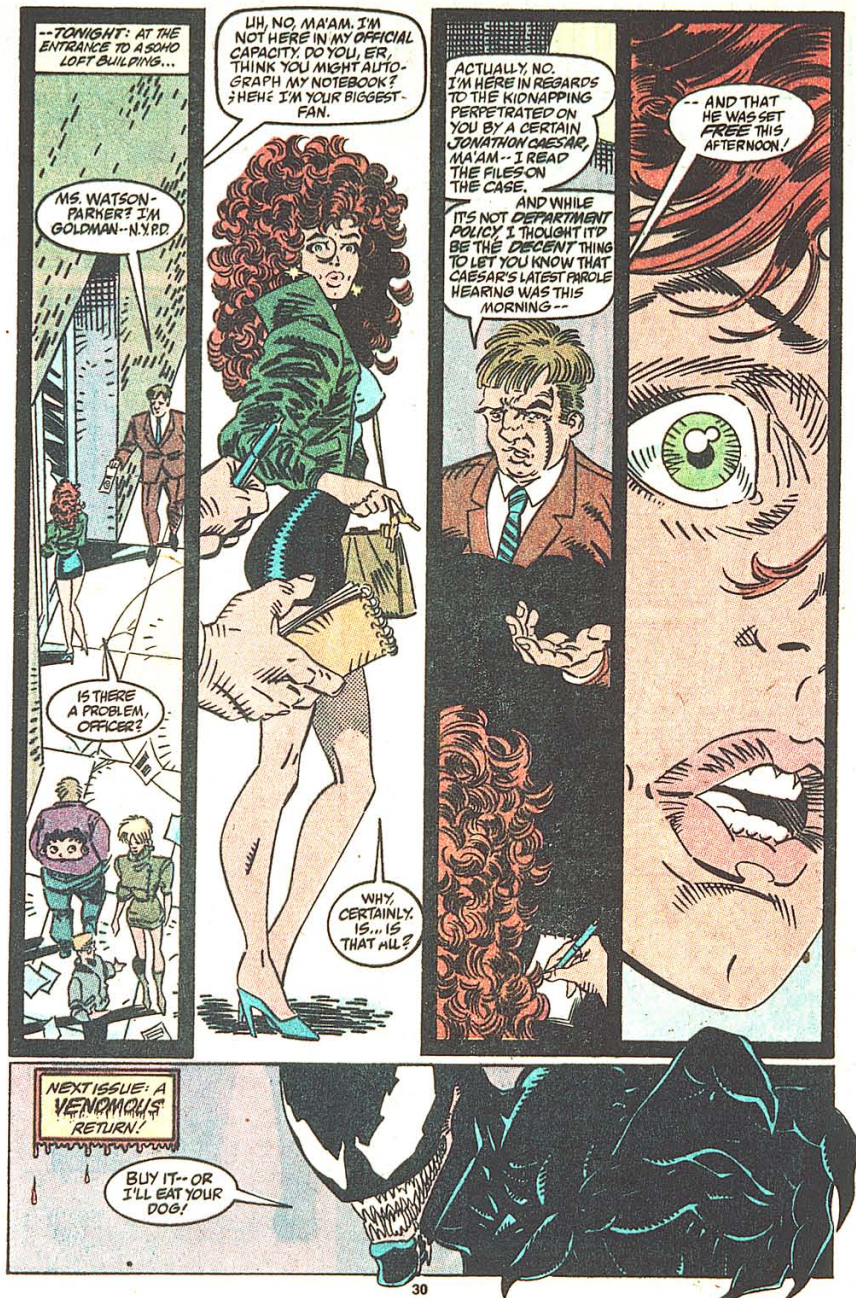
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--TONIGHT: AT THE ENTRANCE TO A SOHO LOFT BUILDING...

MS. WATSON-PARKER? I'M GOLDMAN-N.Y.P.D.

UH, NO, MA'AM, I'M NOT HERE IN MY OFFICIAL CAPACITY. DO YOU, ER, THINK YOU MIGHT AUTOGRAPH MY NOTEBOOK? HERE I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

ACTUALLY, NO, I'M HERE IN REGARDS TO THE KIDNAPPING PERPETRATED ON YOU BY A CERTAIN JONATHAN CAESAR, MA'AM-- I READ THE FILES ON THE CASE.

AND WHILE IT'S NOT DEPARTMENT POLICY, I THOUGHT IT'D BE THE DECENT THING TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CAESAR'S LATEST FAROLE HEARING WAS THIS MORNING--

-- AND THAT HE WAS SET FREE THIS AFTERNOON!

IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?

WHY, CERTAINLY, IS... IS THAT ALL?

NEXT ISSUE: A VENOMOUS RETURN!

BUY IT-- OR I'LL EAT YOUR DOG!

30

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNEER
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Spider-Makers,

Okay, let's be realistic here, concerning John Mattern's letter in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #323, or more specifically, your answer: John: "Why doesn't Spidey stick to its own web?"

Answer: "Why doesn't a spider stick to its own web... It's got something to do with spider-sense."

Spiders don't stick to their own webs because they spin two kinds—one sticky and the other not sticky. They only walk on the non-sticky web.

Maybe a better explanation would be that Peter Parker exposed his costume to a chemical that nullifies his own brand of web.

As far as the artwork is concerned, words can't describe the quality. And more importantly, the story's as good as the art.

Don Evans
Apt. 4, 3019 Glenmore Ave.
Cincinnati, OH

Thanks to you and Ernie Black for pointing out that little arachnote about spider webs, Don. But perhaps Spidey does indeed spin two webs at once (one sticky and one not) which coil around each other. Only Spidey's spider-sense enables him to determine the non-sticky coils of his web-line.

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #323, and I must praise Todd for his rendition of Captain America, as it is much better than in his own comic.

There's just one thing bothering me about the story. When Spider-Man last encountered Captain America (SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #138) Spidey got cuffed upside the head by Cap, who was then Johnny Walker. I realize that Steve Rogers probably has no idea about this, or his teaming up with the Tarantula, but don't you think Spidey would be a bit curious about this?

David Perry
445 Appleyard Drive B2-5
Tallahassee, FL 32304

The news of Cap's replacement was publicly broadcast on national TV, David. Being a newspaper man, Peter Parker was not likely to miss it.

Dear Spider's Web,

"Two's Day" was a pretty good story, and the art was great. I'll tell you the truth, I thought it was Todd McFarlane up until the time I checked the credits right before writing this letter. Erik Larsen is definitely a worthy substitute for McFarlane. As a matter of fact, Todd had better watch out. Erik can draw Mary Jane just as well.

As for the cover, doesn't you think it was a little on the misleading side? Spider-Man never even met Sabretooth in the entire story. I know, you'll probably claim artistic license, but that don't cut it with me. Watch the covers closer, okay?

Silver Sable. I know she's hot-headed and stubborn, but I still don't think she would kill Sabretooth while she knew how important he was to the safety of her country. I also don't think she could, or did, kill him. Wolverine needs him too much.

I think Sable is getting too arrogant, also. She needs to be taken down a couple of notches. Unfortunately, I don't think Spider-Man can do it. The man for the job is Captain America. He is self-assured enough to maybe actually have an effect on her.

Solo is also pretty cocky. But I suppose he didn't just shoot Weil while Spider-Man held onto him. But he still reminds me of the Punisher too much.

Spider-Man seems to be just along for the ride in his own magazine right now. But that's okay, because this is some ride. I'm looking forward to the conclusion, so until next time...

Chris Campbell
3312 4th Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59401

How can you do this to me? I picked up AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #324 assuming it would be another fun-filled issue with the best art in all comicdom, yet behold—what do I see? Another man's work and he is not even referred to as "guest" penciler. Does this mean that Todd McFarlane has left never to come back? I idolized that man and his work and what do you do? You replace him with an inadequate copy-cat! Please tell me that Todd is only taking a short vacation and will be back real soon.

On a more dignified note, I've noticed a little almost boo-boo which I believe is worthy of a No-Prize. On page 29, Spider-Man is hanging against a building with one hand and hanging onto Weil with the other. He seems to believe that he is in a sticky situation because he can't let go of the web line or else they'll fall and he can't let go of Weil because he'll die. I don't see the problem. Since he can walk on walls, why doesn't he just plunk his feet down on the wall and web the bad guy up?

I was very confused until I thought about it a while. Spider-Man probably just realized that swinging over close enough to the wall, propping himself into a firm, comfortable position then wobbling up Solo would take so much time and would cause Solo to take this sudden movement as hostile, resulting in Spider-Man being shot. So, do I get a No-Prize?

Todd's slave forever,
Joanne S.
(Address withheld by request)

Sure, Joanne, that's worthy of a No-Prize. But we're sorry to say that your assessment of Todd's "vacation" is slightly off the mark. Yes, you probably know by now that Todd will no longer be penciling AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. We've happily assigned that honor to Erik Larsen. But don't fret! Todd is currently working on a new SPIDER-MAN title which he will not only pencil and ink, but write as well! Watch for it in late spring!

We're sorry if our cover misled you, Chris. Sometimes it's necessary to promote a great project like the "Assassin Nation Plot" before the writer has finalized his plots. In this case, David Michelinie knew that Sabretooth was appearing in this issue, but he did not know in what regard. Todd drew such an incredible cover that when we determined the real storyline, we just couldn't ask him to change the cover.

Dear Web Dudes,

Okay, we two Spidey fans are pretty ticked off about the way the Master of Spidey Art, Todd McFarlane, is contributing to false advertising. We don't like the fact that for issue #324 he drew an incredibly outstanding cover, but the inside was an incredibly depressing joke.

We were looking forward to seeing McFarlane's version of Sabretooth in action against the web-slinger. But nooooo! What did you give us? Erik Larsen. We don't have anything against Mr. Larsen, it's just that no one can come close to the Master of Art, the Todd Meister. Just take a look at what we think are his "Michelangelos"—issue #319 and all the issues with Venom.

McFarlane has done this more than once and we don't want him to do it anymore. Please stop, do what you do best, Todd—fill comics, not just covers.

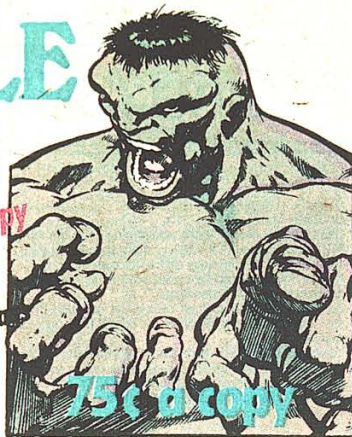
Mark Jones & Sash Rudic
60 Clipper Road, Apt. #602
Willowdale, Ont. M2J 4E2
Canada

Again, the covers to "The Assassin Nation Plot" were completed long before we knew we'd have to schedule Eye-catching Erik Larsen to pencil one issue to give Todd a break from his hectic bi-weekly schedule. But if you like all of Todd's Venom work, then you guys may wish to pick up the trade paperback which collects all those stories in one volume. It should be in your favorite specialty store right now!

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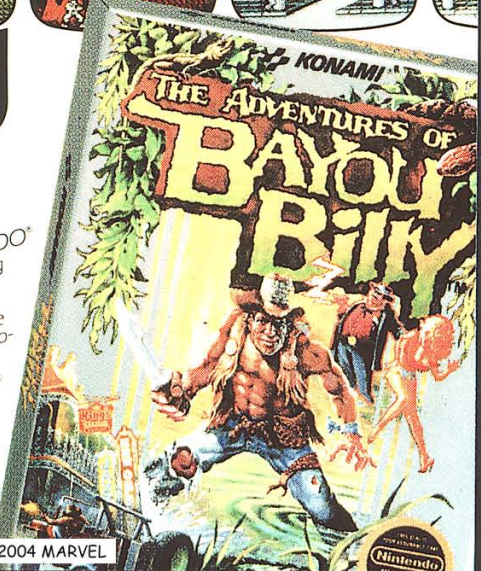
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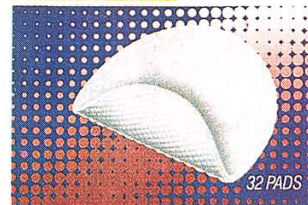
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